

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA**

#### **PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON CLOSING TO LONGLINE GEAR**

#### **STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENING TO LONGLINE GEAR**

#### **EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-06-18**

The Prince William Sound Area (PWS) **parallel** Pacific cod season will **close to longline gear effective 12:00 noon March 2**. This closure coincides with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) closure of the Pacific cod less than 50 foot in length hook and line (<50' HAL) gear sector in the federal Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) area.

The PWS **state-waters** Pacific cod season will **open to longline gear at 12:00 noon March 24**, concurrent with the individual fishing quota (IFQ) halibut season opening date, as provided in the Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.267). The total guideline harvest level (GHL) for PWS is 992,080 pounds of Pacific cod with 85% or 843,268 lb allocated to longline gear. The PWS state-waters Pacific cod season remains open to vessels fishing with pot and jig gear.

Fishermen must obtain a PWS state-waters Pacific cod area registration before participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season. Area registration for the PWS state-waters Pacific cod season for longline gear is exclusive. Vessel registrations may be obtained from department offices in Homer, Cordova, or Anchorage, or by fax through the Homer office. Since 2015, as a requirement of registration and under authority of 5 AAC 28.020(c), fishermen are required to **check in with the department prior to each fishing trip** by telephoning (907) 424-7225 and reporting the following three items: 1) vessel name, 2) estimated date and time of departure for trip, and 3) estimated length of trip. This requirement is detailed on the area registration form.

Fishermen are reminded that there is a 24-hour delivery time requirement following closure of a groundfish fishery (5 AAC 28.271).

**Fishing area:** During a state-waters season, Pacific cod may be taken in PWS waters (5 AAC 28.205) except for those waters of the Outside District east of 146° 15.12' W. long. (the latitude of Hook Point) as described under 5 AAC 28.267(e)(2) (Figure 1).

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**Steller Sea Lion rookery closures:** Directed fishing for all groundfish species is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS (Figure 1). For specific regulatory language contact NMFS in Kodiak at (907) 481-1780 or <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sslpm>.

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Homer, at 907-235-8191.

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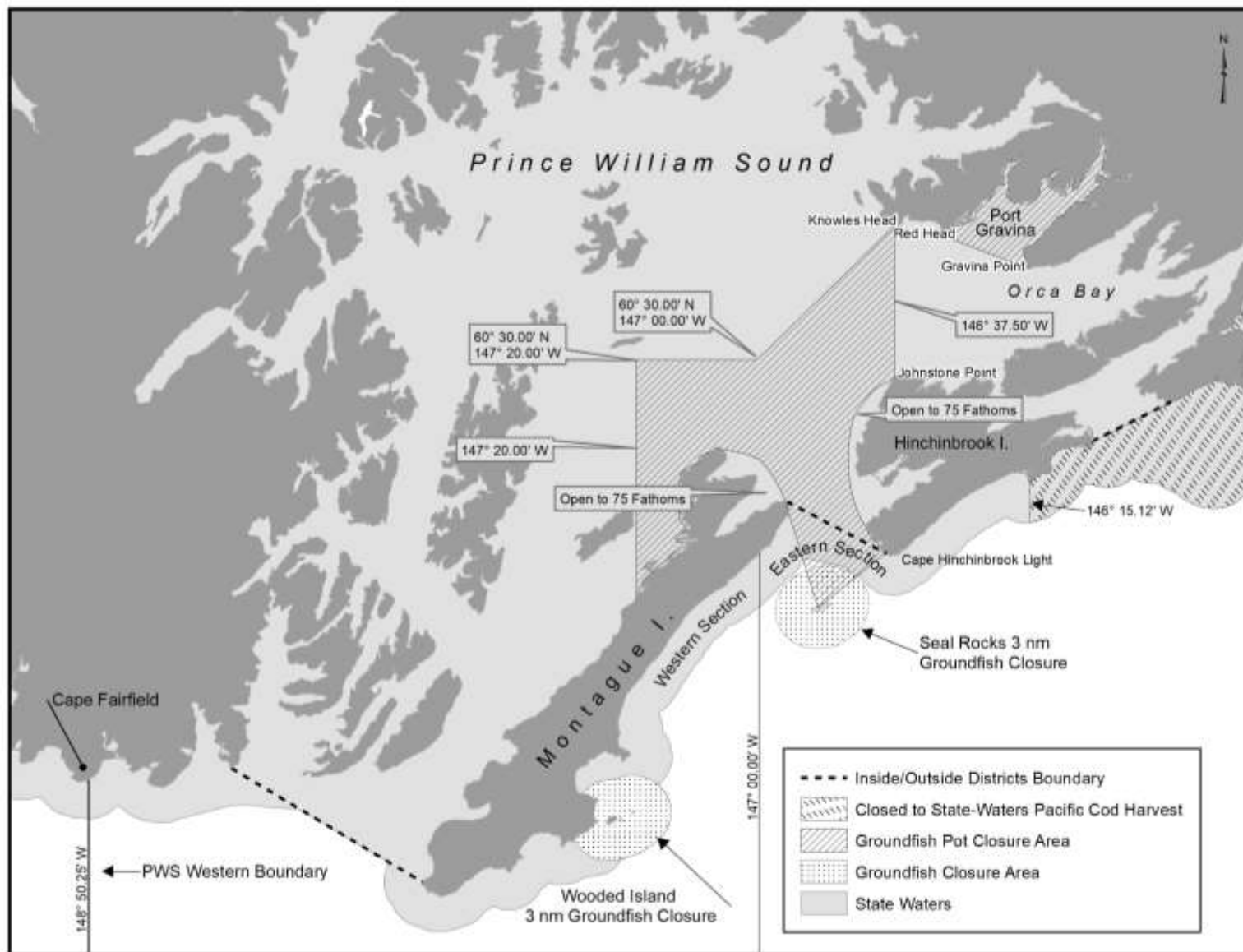


Figure 1. Prince William Sound closures to groundfish pot gear, groundfish fishing, and to the state waters Pacific cod season.

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